

CHAPTER NO. 834

SENATE BILL NO. 1072

By Burks, Person

Substituted for: House Bill No. 65

**By McMillan, Odom, Todd, Maddox, Ralph Cole, Walker, Fitzhugh, White, Brenda
Turner, McDaniel, Kent, Whitson, Ronnie Davis, Kisber**

AN ACT To amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 38 through Title 41.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 40, Chapter 38, is amended by adding Sections 2 through 7 of this act as new Part 4.

SECTION 2. There is hereby created the victims of Crime State Coordinating Council, hereinafter referred to as the "victims council", to be organized and administered in accordance with the provisions of this act.

SECTION 3. For administrative purposes only, the victims council shall be attached to the Tennessee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. All administrative expenses incurred by the victims council, including employment of a victims' advocate, shall be paid from funds the victims council receives pursuant to Section 6 of this act.

SECTION 4. (a) The victims council shall consist of the following persons or their designees:

- (1) The Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts;
- (2) Executive Director of the District Attorneys General Conference;
- (3) President of the Tennessee Sheriffs' Association;
- (4) President of the Tennessee Chiefs of Police;
- (5) The State Treasurer;
- (6) Attorney General and Reporter;
- (7) Executive Director of the Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence;
- (8) Chairperson of Board of Probation and Parole;
- (9) Commissioner of Correction;
- (10) Two (2) victims of violent crime or family members of victims of violent crime chosen by members of the council; and
- (11) (A) In addition to the persons selected pursuant to item (10), up to nine (9) members, not more than one (1) from each congressional

representative district, chosen by members of the victims council. Members chosen shall be representatives of established victims' rights and victims' support organizations. Such members shall represent a diverse range of victims groups. In making appointments to the victims council, members shall strive to ensure that members of racial minorities and persons over the age of sixty (60) are chosen.

(B) It is the legislative intent that members shall represent bona fide victims' rights organizations and that memberships shall rotate in order to accommodate new victims' rights organizations.

(b) The Tennessee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence shall call and convene a meeting by October 1, 2002, for the purpose of electing officers and formulating preliminary policies.

(c) Officers shall serve for terms of two (2) years. Officers may not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms. Officers shall be elected from the membership of the victims council.

(d) The victims council shall meet at least twice a year, or more often as the chair may direct.

(e) Any major expenditure by the victims council shall be included in the plan requesting grant money that is submitted to the treasurer as provided in § 40-24-107(e) and is subject to approval by the State Treasurer.

SECTION 5. The purpose of the victims council is to promote awareness of the needs of victims of crime and families of victims of crime, to provide information and resources to victims of crime, and to coordinate and assist the efforts of victims' rights organizations. The victims council shall not assist individual victims or families of victims, but shall refer victims to the appropriate persons or organizations which are qualified to assist such victims, or shall advise victims of resources available to victims.

SECTION 6. Funding for the victims council shall come from grants awarded pursuant to § 40-24-107(e) and any other grants, donations or appropriations made for such purpose.

SECTION 7. (a) The council has the authority to develop policies for the operation and functioning of the council. Such policies shall include the process for the filling of vacancies and for establishing the terms of non ex-officio members.

(b) Council members shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with the comprehensive travel regulations promulgated by the Department of Finance and Administration and approved by the Attorney General and Reporter.


SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-29-225(a), is amended by adding a new item thereto, as follows:

() Victims council, created by Section 2 of this act;

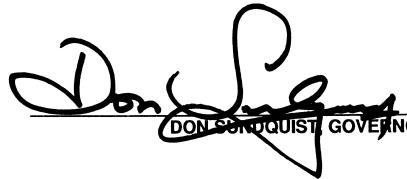
SECTION 9. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: June 29, 2002


JOHN S. WILDER
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE


JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 3rd day of July 2002


DON SUNDQUIST, GOVERNOR